



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

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## January 1 Honey Bee Colonies Up 8 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2020 totaled 2.88 million colonies, up 8 percent from January 1, 2019. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2020 was 2.98 million colonies. During 2019, honey bee colonies on January 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.67 million, 3.18 million, and 3.02 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2020, was 399,570 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2020 was 252,630 colonies, or 8 percent. During the quarter of July through September 2019, colonies lost totaled 434,700 colonies, or 14 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies lost was October through December, with 399,510 colonies lost, or 13 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2020 was 477,200 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2020 was 596,860. During the quarter of July through September 2019, 252,550 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October through December 2019 added 233,260 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2019.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2020 was 153,390 colonies, or 5 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2020, 632,680 colonies, or 21 percent, were renovated. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the highest number of colonies renovated was July through September with 355,330 colonies renovated, or 11 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2019, with 91,000, or 3 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October through December 2019 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 45.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2020 and April through June 2020 are 25.5 percent and 42.3 percent respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 105,240 colonies from January through March 2020. This is a 76 percent increase from the same quarter of 2019.

For a full copy of the *Honey Bee Colonies* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For state specific questions please contact:

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